

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES  
COMMISSIONER

June 23, 2011

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

With more than 1,200 miles of international border and 12 international land ports that facilitate more than \$232 billion in value of trade shipments in 2010, Texans are acutely aware of the need for infrastructure that enables the efficient movement of goods and people across our borders while providing for the protection of the public's safety.

As a representative of a border state, your support is needed to promote the continuation of the Coordinated Border Infrastructure program in the highway reauthorization bill. In Texas, the program, as authorized in the 2006 surface transportation act, provided for the construction and expansion of roadways, bridges and other facilities, which have helped improve legal movement along the border.

Strictly related to trade, a U.S. Department of Commerce study estimates that without continued investment by 2017 delays caused by antiquated port infrastructure could result in an annual losses of more than 54,000 jobs, \$12 billion in output and \$3 billion in wages for Americans. Adequate transportation infrastructure also plays an important role in deterring illegal activity that threatens public safety. For example, in fiscal year 2010 the border patrol reported seizing millions of pounds of contraband, ranging from narcotics to prohibited plants to violent criminals, at ports of entry.

Thank you again for your support of continuation of the Coordinated Border Infrastructure program. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Todd Staples

TS/KF/nc

